

**RESOLUTION
of the
CITY OF MINNEAPOLIS**

**By Johnson, Reich, Gordon, Hofstede, Samuels, Lilligren, Goodman, Glidden,
Tuthill, Quincy, Colvin Roy, and Hodges**

**Honoring Council Member Gary Schiff for his years of service to the City of
Minneapolis.**

Whereas, the son of a public school teacher, Gary earned his B.A. in Women's Studies from the University of Minnesota and studied Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey Institute for Public Affairs with an emphasis on land use and economic development; and

Whereas, prior to serving on the City Council, Gary was active in neighborhood organizing, AIDS activism, historic preservation efforts and the gay rights movement; and

Whereas, before running for office and frustrated by tax dollar waste, Gary co-authored an amendment to the Minneapolis City Charter in 1997 that requires voter approval for city subsidies to professional sports stadiums. The Charter Amendment passed with 68% of the vote; and

Whereas, Gary Schiff was elected to the Minneapolis City Council in the Ninth Ward in 2001 and was re-elected by a two-to-one margin in 2005 and again in 2009; and

Whereas, as a Member of the City Council, Gary has served as Majority Leader, and a member of the Ways and Means budget committee, the Community Development Committee, the Public Safety and the Regulatory Energy and Environment Committees, the Transportation and Public Works committee and as Chair of the Information Technology Policy Committee. Gary also served as the City's representative on the Interchange Project Planning Committee, the Minneapolis-St. Paul Housing Finance Board, the Family Housing Fund, the St. Anthony Falls Heritage Board, and the Lake Street Council; and

Whereas, as a City Council Member, Gary chaired the Zoning and Planning Committee and served on the Planning Commission for twelve years. He participated in over 250 Planning Commission meetings, and voted on over 6,000 land use applications during a period of substantial change and growth for our city; and

Whereas, as a City Council Member, Gary initiated the planning to bring streetcars back, started the planning for Wireless Minneapolis, and in 2004 authored the city's first Sustainability Plan, now in its eighth year of tracking our city's progress in achieving social equality and environmental sustainability; and

Whereas, Gary helped with the planning and funding for City facilities in the Ninth Ward including the new LEED Certified (platinum) Hiawatha Maintenance Facility, the Third Precinct expansion and new 311 offices, the new East Phillips Park Cultural and Community Center, and the historic designation and restoration of the Pioneers and Soldiers Memorial Cemetery; and

Whereas, in 2006, Gary Schiff served as co-chair of the Minneapolis/Hennepin County Commission to End Homelessness; and

Whereas, during his tenure on the City Council, the Ninth Ward added 549 new units of affordable housing --more new units of affordable rental housing than any other area of the city-- including housing for American Indian elders, people with disabilities, teen mothers, people with AIDS and gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender seniors; and

Whereas, Gary started the city's American Indian Home Ownership program, beginning the transformation of a blighted block in the East Phillips neighborhood into high-quality affordable home ownership; and

Whereas, Gary's civic involvement while in office included service as Chair of the Little Earth of United Tribes capital campaign, and member of capital campaign boards for CAPI and Alliance Housing; and

Whereas, as Ninth Ward City Council Member, Gary worked in coalition with neighborhood leaders to save the Midtown Greenway from new high voltage power lines, resulting in a precedent-setting Public Utilities Commission decision to order the lines buried at the utility's expense; and

Whereas, Gary has been a champion for small business growth, sponsoring legislation that allowed more taxi companies, more sidewalk cafes, more live music in coffee shops and restaurants, more pedicabs on downtown streets, and the Brew Beer Here legislation that ushered the return of the local microbrewing industry; and

Whereas, Gary Schiff authored legislation such as the indoor smoking ban, the Equal Benefits Ordinance, municipal recognition of matriculas, the Immigration Separation ordinance, protections for youth workers in the travelling sales industry, a cap on rental application fees, and multiple efforts to increase animal adoptions; and

Whereas, Gary Schiff founded the Cuernavaca-Minneapolis Sister City program, and represented the City with distinction in delegation visits to Ibaraki, Japan and Eldoret, Kenya and was the first elected official from Minnesota to visit the Dadaab refugee camp on the Kenya-Somalia border; and

Whereas, after 12 years of distinguished public service, Gary Schiff will leave the City of Minneapolis, having established a legacy of excellence reflective of his commitment to the highest principles of public service, good government, and the numerous contributions made to the betterment of the City enterprise and to the well-being and prosperity of the community of the City of Minneapolis.

Now, Therefore, Be It Resolved by The City Council of The City of Minneapolis:

The Mayor & City Council do hereby present this Honorary Resolution in recognition of its sincere gratitude and appreciation for the many contributions made by Council Member Name to the City of Minneapolis.